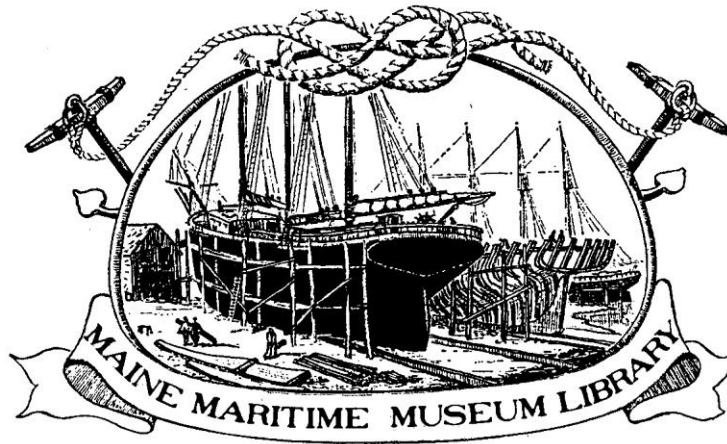


Maine Maritime Museum Library

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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS – 17**

Edward P. Donnell Papers

**1863 - 1914
Bulk 1905 - 1906**

by
Elisabeth Meier
February 2018

½ box
.25 linear feet
Accession no. 70.50

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Abstract

Edward P. Donnell (1836-1905)

Papers, 1863-1914

Bulk dates: 1905-1906

½ box

Member of a rope-making family of Bath, Maine

The bulk of this collection consists of accounts, receipts, and correspondence related to the settlement of Edward P. Donnell's estate in 1905 and 1906. A few papers pertain to Donnell's lifetime. Apart from small shares in six Bath vessels, the majority of Donnell's investments were not maritime.

Gift of James L. Sanborn.

MS-17. Accession #70.50.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Donnell, Edward P. (1836-1905)

Donnell, Phebe Wormsted (1814-1893)

Added entries—key terms:

Investments

Military pensions--United States--Civil War, 1861-1865

Shipowners

Wills

Acquisition

This collection was donated to the museum by James L. Sanborn in 1970.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The documents are mostly in good condition. Some have split along old folds.

Historical Note

Edward P. Donnell was born in Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1836. He was the son of George Donnell and Phebe Wormsted, both of Newbury. In 1843, George Donnell moved his young family to Bath, Maine to join his brothers, Joseph T. and Charles, in setting up a ropewalk. This ropewalk, located on the south end of Washington Street, was later known as the G. & J.T. Donnell Cordage Company.

Note: the rope-making Donnell family has no known relationship to the Donnell family of shipbuilders in Bath.

Edward P. Donnell began his career in the family business of rope-making, but left to volunteer for the Army during the Civil War. On his return, he decided to switch careers and

join the lumber business. To this end, he moved to Benton, Kennebec County, Maine, where he met and married Mary E. Hill (1840-1902). By 1880, however, Donnell had returned to Bath, where he worked variously as a bookkeeper, a deputy collector of customs, and a city assessor. He died in Bath on April 16, 1905.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection consists of documents related to settling Edward P. Donnell's estate. It includes a copy of Donnell's will, outstanding bills from local businesses, letters from beneficiaries, accounts from Donnell's executor, Frederic H. Low, and valuations of individual elements of the estate. It gives a detailed account of Donnell's investments, which ranged from small (down to 1/256) shares in Bath-built ships to stock in Western railroads, mines, and public utilities.

The collection also contains a small number of documents from Donnell's lifetime, including correspondence related to his Civil War pension, and a deed transferring property Donnell's father, George, to his mother, Phebe.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Quit-claim deed, George H. Donnell to Phebe Donnell, 1882
	2	Army discharge and pension papers, Edward P. Donnell, 1863-1905
	3	Personal papers and accounts, Edward P. Donnell, 1882-1904
	4	Bank account books, Edward P. Donnell and Edward P. Donnell estate, 1904-1906
	5	Will and estate papers, Edward P. Donnell, April 11, 1905 – May 23, 1905
	6	Estate papers, Edward P. Donnell, May 29, 1905 – July 21, 1905
	7	Estate papers, Edward P. Donnell, July 26, 1905 – August 31, 1905
	8	Estate papers, Edward P. Donnell, September 15, 1905 – May 19, 1906
	9	Estate papers, Edward P. Donnell, May 22, 1906 – June 1, 1906
	10	Estate papers, Edward P. Donnell, June 25, 1906 – May 12, 1914
	11	Estate papers and list of assets, Edward P. Donnell, undated
	12	Accounts, Frederic H. Low, executor, June 5, 1906 – August 14, 1906